



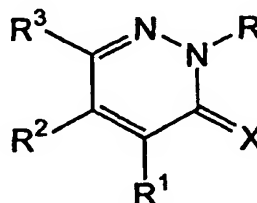
## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: PROSTAGLANDIN ENDOPEROXIDE H SYNTHASE BIOSYNTHESIS INHIBITORS

## (57) Abstract

The present invention describes pyridazinone compounds of formula (I) which are cyclooxygenase (COX) inhibitors, and in particular, are selective inhibitors of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2). COX-2 is the inducible isoform associated with inflammation, as opposed to the constitutive isoform, cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1) which is an important "housekeeping" enzyme in many tissues, including the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and the kidneys. The selectivity of these compounds for COX-2 minimizes the unwanted GI and renal side-effects seen with currently marketed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).



(I)

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